

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

Justin Ewanciw,	:	
	:	
	:	Civil Action No.: _____
Plaintiff,	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Harris & Harris, Ltd.,	:	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
	:	
Defendant.	:	
	:	
	:	

COMPLAINT & JURY DEMAND

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Justin Ewanciw, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, *et seq.* ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendant and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
2. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, in that the Defendant transacts business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

3. The Plaintiff, Justin Ewanciw (“Plaintiff”), is an adult individual residing in Bellville, Michigan, and is a “consumer” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

4. Defendant Harris & Harris, Ltd. (“Harris”), is a Massachusetts business entity with an address of 111 W. Jackson Blvd, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60604, operating as a collection agency, and is a “debt collector” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

5. Harris at all times acted by and through one or more of the collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

6. The Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the “Debt”) to an original creditor (the “Creditor”).

7. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a “debt” under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

8. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Harris for collection, or Harris was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

9. The Defendant attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in “communications” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. Harris Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

10. Since 2014, Harris has been contacting Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the debt.

11. On November 11, 2019, Plaintiff answered a phone call from Harris.

12. Plaintiff informed Harris he does not owe this debt.

13. Harris told Plaintiff that he does owe the money and that they would take action if Plaintiff did not pay.

14. Plaintiff advised Harris that he would proceed with getting legal representation if Harris sued him.

15. Harris replied “Go fuck yourself,” and hung up the telephone.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

16. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendant’s unlawful conduct.

17. As a direct consequence of the Defendant’s acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

COUNT I

VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

18. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

19. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendant engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.

20. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(2) in that Defendant used profane and abusive language when speaking with the consumer.

21. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendant used false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt.

22. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5) in that Defendant threatened to take legal action, without actually intending to do so.

23. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendant employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.

24. The Defendant's conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendant used unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.

25. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

26. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendant's violations.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against Defendant;
2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A) against Defendant;
3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) against Defendant;
4. Actual damages from Defendant for the all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;
5. Punitive damages against Defendant; and
6. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: December 26, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Sergei Lemberg, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff Justin Ewanciw
LEMBERG LAW, L.L.C.
43 Danbury Road, 3rd Floor
Wilton, CT 06897
Telephone: (203) 653-2250
Facsimile: (203) 653-3424
Email: slemburg@lemburglaw.com

PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 83.11

1. Is this a case that has been previously dismissed? If yes, give the following information:

Yes

No

Court: _____

Case No.: _____

Judge: _____

2. Other than stated above, are there any pending or previously discontinued or dismissed companion cases in this or any other court, including state court? (Companion cases are matters in which it appears substantially similar evidence will be offered or the same or related parties are present and the cases arise out of the same transaction or occurrence.)

Yes

No

If yes, give the following information:

Court: _____

Case No.: _____

Judge: _____

Notes :
